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Rev. Baden Powell, V.P., in the Chair.

For Notice of a newly-discovered Planet, see page 169.

Volume XXV. of the *Memoirs* has recently been published. The price is 5*s*. to Fellows of the Society, and 10*s*. to the public. The sixteenth volume of the *Monthly Notices*, containing the shorter papers, abstracts of memoirs, and notices of discovery and new publications, is given to purchasers of the 4to. volume. The two publications are supplementary to each other, and are to be considered as parts of the same series. Between them they contain a complete account of the proceedings of the Society during the year.

The Editor wishes to call the attention of the usual contributors to the *Monthly Notices* to a few particulars in which they might materially lighten his labours without (it is hoped) imposing any troublesome constraint on themselves as writers of papers. At the present time numerous communications are sent without date, or signature, or any express intimation that they are intended for publication. The papers come to hand also of all sizes and shapes, rendering their arrangement, whether immediately for the press, or afterwards for preservation, difficult.

Diagrams, again, are often given either on too large a scale to serve as the copy for the engraver, or on too small a scale for him to be able to perceive what peculiarity he is to make clear. For instance, as when a circular arc is distorted slightly into a hyperbolic one; or when a shadow has some peculiarity of outline. Tables are also frequently sent so arranged as not to come within the limits of the page, when a very little ingenuity or an arrangement in three longer columns instead of four shorter ones, would save the necessity of copying them. The present Editor is no admirer of pedantic rules, or of requirements that signatures shall follow precisely at so many inches and tenths of an inch from the previous line; neither has he any wish to shift the ordinary and proper labour of editing on to the contributor; but a very little acquaintance with public correspondence, or with what is due to a learned Society, will, it is believed, make the following recommendations appear reasonable:—

1. That all papers intended for publication be dated, and headed "For the *Monthly Notices*," and that space be left above the body of the paper for Editor's heading.

2. That they be written in black ink, and on foolscap paper (13 × 8 inches), ruled with *about* three lines to the inch, with a margin of *about* an inch next the crease.

3. That papers in foreign languages, *when communicated through a resident Fellow*, be accompanied by an arranged translation.

4. That tables be arranged, as nearly as may be practicable, to suit the ordinary size of page; and that, when a diagram is required, one be given on a scale suited to the page, and a second (if required) on any larger scale, as large as may be necessary to elucidate the peculiarity to be represented.

5. That where optical or physical phenomena have been observed, the description of telescope, the aperture, focal length, ratio of aperture to focal length, and magnifying power, be stated in all cases.

A practicable degree of compliance with the above suggestions will, in addition to other advantages, lessen the time required for preparing and issuing successive numbers.

It has been already recommended that when regular and lengthened series of observations of planets or comets have been obtained, such series be sent for publication to Altona; but it is by no means intended to exclude from this periodical casual observations, moderate in number, or possessing immediate interest; as, for instance, the early observations of a newly-discovered body, occultations, or other phenomena.

From time to time Fellows of the Society send descriptions of new private observatories, not always accompanied or even followed by observations of value, and frequently insisting in the main on the lowness of the outlay, or the ease with which the

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Observatory may be taken to pieces, as the motive for making the communication. Desirable as may be the increase in the number of such private establishments, each in its own locality fostering an interest in the branch of knowledge which this Society represents, it must be borne in mind that the only sufficient object of such a public statement is the enabling another person to judge of the relative sufficiency of the means used in procuring observations already published, or about to be published; and it will be at once perceived that such communications should be concise and to the point. Where some detail of construction is to be explained, an architect's plan and elevation with running notes is what is rather wanted, and will in that case be duly acknowledged, and deposited in the archives of the Society for the future consultation of any one about to build. Descriptions of a new eye-piece, a new material, or process of manufacture, a successful experiment or the like, do not, of course, come within the scope of the preceding remarks.

Results of the Observations of Small Planets made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the Month of March, 1857.

(*Communicated by the Astronomer Royal.*)

Parthenope.

Mean Solar Time of Observation.		Apparent R.A.	Apparent N.P.D.
	h m s	h m s	° ′ ″
1857, Mar. 4	11 30 58·1	10 21 37·94	75 40 38·84
9	11 7 1·6	10 17 20·28	75 11 26·66
13	10 48 6·1	10 14 7·85	74 50 28·67
16	10 34 5·0	10 11 54·10	74 36 16·22
20	10 15 39·9	10 9 12·18	74 19 31·30

Fides.

Mean Solar Time of Observation.		Apparent R.A.	Apparent N.P.D.
	h m s	h m s	° ′ ″
1857, Mar. 4	11 56 46·1	10 47 30·12	79 51 11·18
13	11 13 29·4	10 39 35·29	79 16 30·06
16	10 59 17·2	10 37 10·46	79 6 45·95
20	10 40 35·2	10 34 11·62	78 55 23·71
23	10 26 46·0	10 32 9·82	78 48 12·77